

Message Text

SECRET

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9299

INFO RUTAOH AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 40

AMEMBASSY MOGADISHO

S E C R E T TEHRAN 6558

EXDIS

FROM UNDER SECRETARY NEWSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, IR, SO, RH

SUBJ: AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH: AFRICAN MATTERS

SUMMARY: DURING MY AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH ON JULY 9 HE PRESENTED HIS FAMILIAR ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET AIMS AND ACTIONS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT: POSSIBLE COLLABORATION OF ALGERIA WITH CUBA, AND PERHAPS THE VIETNAMESE IN THE NORTHWEST; LIBYAN THRUSTS INTO CHAD AND ISOLATION OF THE SUDAN; CUBAN DOMINANCE OF ANGOLA AND ASPIRATIONS AGAINST ZAIRE AND FURTHER EASTWARD; AND, OF COURSE, SOVIET GAINS IN THE HORN. I RECOMMEND WE CONTINUE TO KEEP HIM INFORMED. END SUMMARY.

1. I PREFACED MY COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC COUNTRIES BY NOTING THAT WE WERE ALSO DEEPLY CONCERNED BY SPREAD OF SOVIET INFLUENCE. OUR GENERAL EFFORT HAD TO BE TO TRY PATIENTLY TO ALTER THE CONDITIONS IN THE AREA WHICH THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS EXPLOITED OR WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THEM WITH FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES. WE GAVE THIS A HIGH PRIORITY.

2. SOMALIA: I INFORMED HIM OF THE DELAY IN SENDING THE

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SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA AND THE REASONS FOR OUR DECISION. HE REPLIED THAT THE SOMALI AMBASSADOR HAD RECENTLY PRESSED HIM HARD FOR SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE BUT HE HAD TAKEN THE POSITION THAT HE COULD NOT HELP AS LONG AS SOMALIA WAS PASSING THAT AID TO THE OGADEN REBELS. NO SOMALI LEADER COULD REFRAIN FROM HELPING THE OGADEN REBELS IF HE WISHED TO SURVIVE, HE SAID, BUT SIAD BARRE DID IT TOO OPENLY AND

TOO EXTENSIVELY. THE SOMALIS SHOULD FIND INDIRECT MEANS TO HELP IN SMALL WAYS BUT CONCENTRATE MOST OF THEIR ENERGIES ON BUILDING SOMALI STRENGTH FOR THE LONG HAUL.

3. RHODESIA: I BRIEFED THEM IN SOME DETAIL ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AND OF OUR HOPE THAT THERE MIGHT BE A QUIET ALL-PARTIES MEETING AND POSSIBLY SOME REALIGNMENT OF PERSONALITIES. THE SHAH WAS KEENLY INTERESTED AND SAID THAT NKOMO HAD RECENTLY VISITED IRAN IN SEARCH OF MONEY; "HE IS A BIG MAN AND WANTED A LOT." THE SHAH SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT GIVE THIS KIND OF HELP AS LONG AS NKOMO CONTINUED TO OPPOSE THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD GIVEN MONEY ("NOT MUCH") TO MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE AND CONTINUED TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH "ALL THOSE BISHOPS."

4. COMMENT: WHILE SHAH'S SOVIET GRAND DESIGN APPROACH TO AFRICAN AFFAIRS IS GREATLY OVERDRAWN, WHEN HE DISCUSSES INDIVIDUAL SITUATIONS HE IS REMARKABLY WELL INFORMED AND INVOLVED. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KEEP HIM GENERALLY INFORMED, PARTICULARLY ON HORN AND RHODESIA. HE WOULD APPRECIATE THIS AS FURTHER INDICATION OUR INTEREST IN HIS ROLE IN WEST ASIA-AFRICA REGION.

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